

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 1, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 to 25. The rejections are respectfully traversed. This Response "F" cancels no claims, amends claims 1, 13, and 23, and adds no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 to 25 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 to 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Chaban (US 5,738,475). The Examiner stated that "the body portion (at 126) may be plastically deformed at a location near the head and contact the first link to eliminate free play, while maintaining the reservoir, the contact remaining in two locations (near 118 and at 126) along the first link (88), thereby meeting the limitation." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The rivet 92 of Chaban has an entirely different purpose than the rivet of the present invention and as a result has a different structure that does not solve the problem which is solved by the rivet according to the present invention. The rivet 92 of Chaban is designed to form a lubricant reservoir 136 between the rivet 92 and the movable member 88 and trap lubricant in the reservoir 136. The hollow portion 120 of the rivet 92 extends into the movable member 88 only slightly so that it expands out at the edge of the hole in the moving member 88 to trap lubricant in the reservoir 136. The solid portion 126 of the rivet 92 near the head 128 does not expand to the moving member 88 within the movable member 88. Chaban clearly states that "the solid portion 126 expansion is negligible." See column 7, lines 58 to 59. Chaban purposely does not expand the rivet 98 with the movable member 88 near the head 128 in order to form the lubricant reservoir 136 and purposely expands of the rivet 92 within the movable member 88 only near the edge to trap the lubricant within the lubricant reservoir. The Examiner is correct that the solid portion 126 may be in contact with the movable member 88. However, this contact would not be due to expansion of the solid portion 126 of the rivet 92 near the head 128 (see column 7, lines 58 to 59). This contact would be due to pure luck that the parts were manufactured in a manner that created the contact. Due to manufacturing tolerances of the components, some solid sections 126 will contact the movable member 88 near the head 128 and some will not. When the solid sections 126 do not contact the movable member 88, there is free play between the rivet

92 and the movable member 88. The hollow portion 120 of Chaban does not extend deep enough to remove free play between the rivet 92 and the movable portion 88. This very problem is what the present invention solves. It was the inventive insight of the applicant that the rivet bore could be made much deeper to increase deformation within the movable member to increase surface to surface contact between the rivet and the moveable member in an amount which results in the elimination of free play therebetween regardless of whether manufacturing tolerances are such that the solid portion of the rivet, which does not expand during installation, is contacting the movable portion.

Independent claims 1 and 13, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they each include the limitation “wherein the central bore has a maximum internal diameter which extends along the central bore through the first aperture a distance such that the body portion is plastically deformed into contact with the first link near the head portion within the first aperture to provide continuous surface to surface contact between the body portion and the first link from the first internal surface and extending in a direction toward the head portion for more than half the length of the first aperture which eliminates free play between the first link and the fastener.” No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by claims 1 and 13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

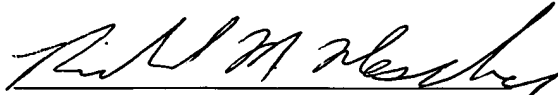
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our
Deposit Account No. 16-2326.

Respectfully submitted,

PORTER, WRIGHT, MORRIS & ARTHUR LLP

January 3, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Mescher", written over a horizontal line.

Richard M. Mescher, Reg. No. 38,242

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